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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 004918

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STATE FOR NEA/IPA AND IO/UMP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [FR](#) [UNGA](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: NABIL SHAATH ON UNGA SEPARATION BARRIER ISSUE,
FRANCE'S FCC-EQUIVALENT, AND GAZA

REF: PARIS 4897

Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ALEX WOLFF, FOR REASONS 1.4 B/D

11. (C) Following reftel report that FM Douste-Blazy would raise French concerns about an emergency special session at UNGA on the separation barrier, PA DPM Nabil Shaath confirmed to the DCM July 14 that Douste-Blazy had indeed raised the issue with him. Shaath said he would report GOF concerns back to Abu Mazen. Shaath believed that it would take direct approaches to PA President Abu Mazen to overrule FM Al Kidwa's zeal to resume the Tenth Emergency Special Session. The DCM raised USG concerns, saying the special session would have no positive effect and rather, would be extremely unhelpful. Shaath agreed, but said that Al Kidwa was intent on pursuing the issue at the UN. He likened Al Kidwa to the Alec Guinness character in Bridge over the River Kwai; like the bridge engineer, Al Kidwa does what he knows how to do -- UN resolutions -- even when they are politically self-defeating.

12. (C) Shaath, who said he was also responsible for media issues for the Palestinian Authority, was in Paris to meet with officials from the Conseil Superieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA), France's FCC-equivalent. He said he was interested in promoting a free media environment in the PA, but wanted also to be against incitement. In this regard, he said he thought the French CSA model was relevant. (Note: Last year, the CSA successfully banned al-Manar, Hezbollah's satellite television station and PKK-linked Medya TV, among others. End note) Shaath also expressed interest in the FCC and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and said he would be willing to meet with these entities for any insights they might have.

13. (C) Shaath also commented briefly on the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, saying "it really had to work" given that it contained 40 per cent of the Palestinian population. Abu Mazen, however, needs to be able to show results. Furthermore, he hoped that Abu Mazen would not be set up for failure, given PM Sharon's restrictions on providing Palestinian security forces with guns and ammunition, which Shaath characterized as a "security catch-22."
STAPLETON